



## Washington State Gambling Commission

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## Home Poker Games

Home poker games are allowed in Washington as long as professional gambling does not occur. Generally, this means no fees can be charged for arranging, facilitating, organizing, or operating card games and all money goes back to the players. If you are engaging in Professional Gambling, you may face prosecution under Washington's criminal laws.

The following may help you determine if you are operating home poker games illegally.

### Professional Gambling First Degree

RCW 9.46.220

Any person who operates, manages, or profits from the operation of a premises or location where persons are charged a fee to participate in card games is conducting First Degree Professional Gambling, a class B felony. For example, you charge a fee for your friends to play in a poker game. A class B felony has a maximum penalty of ten years in prison, or a \$20,000 fine, or both.

### Professional Gambling Second Degree

RCW 9.46.221 and RCW 9.46.0249

Any person who maintains a "gambling premises," such as a building, room, enclosure, vehicle or other place used or intended to be used for professional gambling, is conducting Professional Gambling in the Second Degree, a class C felony. For example, you let a friend use your house to conduct a poker game and players are charged a fee to play in the game. A class C felony has a maximum penalty of five years in prison, or a \$10,000 fine, or both.

To inquire about the availability of this document in an alternate format, please call 360.486.3466 or 800.345.2529, ext. 3466. Teletype (TTY) users please call 360.486.3637

### Professional Gambling Third Degree

RCW 9.46.222

Any person who engages in or knowingly causes, aids, abets, or conspires with another to engage in professional gambling and whose conduct does not constitute first or second degree Professional Gambling is guilty of Professional Gambling in the Third Degree. Professional Gambling in the Third Degree is a gross misdemeanor. For example, you play in a game where a fee is charged beyond your own gambling winnings. A gross misdemeanor has a maximum penalty of one year in prison, or a \$5,000 fine, or both.



For more information,  
visit our website at [www.wsgc.wa.gov](http://www.wsgc.wa.gov)

We encourage voluntary compliance.  
For questions, please call or e-mail our  
Regional Field Office closest to you.

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**Spokane** ..... 509.325.7900  
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**If you or someone you know  
have a gambling problem call  
800.547.6133**